

Board of IM

WTs of an Installed Master (obsolete working)

The **WTs of an Installed Master** are the P_n of the W_k, the P_L_ and the T_l.

The P_n of the W_k is a necessity to all operative masons who are engaged on any important undertaking, to enable them to raise the intended structure with accuracy & precision. To Free & Accepted or Speculative Freemasons the Volume of the Sacred Law represents the plan of the work of the Almighty Architect, for therein are laid down those divine instructions and moral plans which, were we strictly to obey and adhere thereto, would enable us to erect in our hearts an edifice perfect in all its parts and honourable to the builder.

The P_L_ is used by operative masons as the standard by which they judge the uprightness and accuracy of their work, but to the Speculative Masons it has a symbolic meaning. As the unsupported structure which is not perpendicular must be insecure with a tendency to fall or fail, so he whose life is not supported on an upright line of conduct must necessarily fail in the estimation of his fellows. May you WM who has this day been raised above your brn, ever be regarded by them as providing a standard of uprightness by which they may judge their own course of actions which will keep them in sympathy with those with whom we must all work & live together.

The T_l is an implement with which Operative Masons spread the mortar, which binds the material with which a building is constructed into one compact and enduring piece of masonry. Symbolically the trowel teaches Installed Masters to spread among their brethren that brotherly love and affection which will cement them into one happy and united body.

Thus the Working Tools of an Installed Master reminds us that Piety, Virtue and Brotherly Love are the fundamental principles on which our Order is constructed. May you WM, with the guidance of the Most High be enabled to build up this Lodge into a Temple which accords with His divine and grand design.

NOTES:

Ceremonial Opening and Closing *in extenso* of a Board of Installed Masters was in use in various parts of England until 1926. In that year there was discussion within UGLE about the BIM ceremonial (as well as in South Australia). By resolution dated 1 December 1926 UGLE permitted the continued use of the extended ceremony provided that

“there shall be incorporated in such ceremony a precise declaration by the Installing Master to the Master Elect that the signs, tokens and words given in the course of the extended portion of the Working are not essential to the Installation of a Master and are not known to, or to be required from, Installed Masters generally ...”

W Bro Victor Sereno states (2005):

“there remains a truly antient form of opening a Board of Installed Master which is and was frowned on by UGLE. This is practised by a number of very old Lodges mainly on the Lancashire/Yorkshire border; also in Cornwall & some other places, who, quite rightly claim that Tradition supercedes edicts of GL.”

For another version of the complete long ritual also see booklet available from Lewis Masonic, first published 1921, “A Complete Ritual of the IM” by JSM Ward. (Third edition 1982) ISBN 0 853180148 Price GBP3-50